The TATLER.

By *Isaac Bickerstaff* Esq;

Quicquid agunt Homines nostri Farrago Libelli.

From *Saturday September* 10. to *Tuesday September* 13. 1709.

From my own Apartment, September 12.

NO Man can conceive, till he comes to try it, how great a Pain it is to be a Publick-spirited Person. I am sure I am unable to express to the World, how much Anxiety I have suffer'd, to see of how little Benefit my Lucubrations have been to my Fellow-Subjects. Men will go on in their own Way in Spight of all my Labour. I gave Mr. *Didapper* a private Reprimand for wearing red-heel'd Shoes, and at the same Time was so indulgent as to connive at him for Fourteen Days, because I would give him the wearing of 'em out; but after all this I am inform'd, he appear'd yesterday with a new Pair of the same Sort. I have no better Success with Mr. *Whander'call* as to his Buttons: *Stentor* still roars; and Box and Dice rattle as loud as they did before I writ against 'em. *Partridge* walks about at Noon-day, and *Æsculapius* thinks of adding a new Lace to his Livery. However I must still go on in laying these Enormities before Men's Eyes, and let them answer for going on in their Practice. My Province is much larger than at first Sight Men would imagine, and I shall lose no Part of my Jurisdiction, which extends not only to Futurity, but also is retrospect to Things past; and the Actions of Persons who have long ago acted their Parts, are as much liable to my Examination, as those of my own Contemporaries. In order to put the whole Race of Mankind in their proper Distinctions, according to the Opinion their Cohabitants conceiv'd of them, I have with very much Care, and Depth of Meditation, thought fit to erect a Chamber of Fame, and establish'd certain Rules, which are to be observ'd in admitting Members into this illustrious Society. In this Chamber of Fame there are to be Three Tables, but of different Lengths; the First is to contain exactly Twelve Persons; the Second, Twenty; the Third, an Hundred. This is reckon'd to be the full Number of those who have any competent Share of Fame. At the First of these Tables are to be plac'd in their Order the Twelve most famous Persons in the World, not with Regard to the Things they are famous for, but according to the Degree of their Fame, whether in Valour, Wit, or Learning. Thus if a Scholar be more famous than a Soldier, he is to sit above him. Neither must any Preference be given to Virtue, if the Person be not equally famous. When the First Table is fill'd, the next in Renown must be seated at the Second, and so on in like Manner to the Number of Twenty; as also in the same Order at the Third, which is to hold an Hundred. At these Tables no Regard is to be had to Seniority: For if *Julius Cæsar* shall be judg'd more famous than *Romulus* and *Scipio*, he must have the Precedence. No Person who has not been dead an Hundred Years, must be offer'd to a Place at any of these Tables: And because this is altogether a Lay-Society, and that sacred Persons move upon greater Motives than that of Fame, no Persons celebrated in holy Writ, or any Ecclesiastical Men whatsoever, are to be introdue'd here.

At the lower End of the Room is to be a Side-Table for Persons of great Fame, but dubious Existence, such as *Hercules*, *Theseus*, *Æneas*, *Achilles*, *Hector*, and others. But because it is apprehended, that there may be great Contention about Precedence, the Proposer humbly desires the Opinion of the Learned towards his Assistance in placing every Person according to his Rank, that none may have just Occasion of Offence.

The Merits of the Cause shall be judg'd by Plurality of Voices.

For the more impartial Execution of this important Affair, it is desir'd, That no Man will offer his Favourite Hero, Scholar, or Poet; and that the Learned will be pleas'd to send to Mr. *Bickerstaff* at Mr. *Morphew*'s near *Stationers-Hall*, their several Lists for the First Table only, and in the Order they would have them plac'd; after which the Composer will compare the several Lists, and make another for the Publick, wherein every Name shall be rank'd according to the Voices it has had. Under this Chamber is to be a dark Vault for the same Number of Persons of evil Fame.

It is humbly submitted to Consideration, Whether the Project would not be better, if the Persons of true Fame meet in a middle Room, those of dubious Existence in an upper Room, and those of evil Fame in a lower dark Room.

It is to be noted, That no Historians are to be admitted at any of these Tables, because they are appointed to conduct the several Persons to their Seats, and are to be made Use of as Ushers to the Assemblies.

I call upon the learned World to send me their Assistance towards this Design, it being a Matter of too great Moment for any one Person to determine. But I do assure 'em, their Lists shall be examin'd with great Fidelity, and those that are expos'd to the Publick, made with all the Caution imaginable. In the mean Time, while I wait for these Lists, I am employ'd in keeping People in a right Way, to avoid the contrary to Fame and Applause, to wit, Blame and Derision. For this End I work upon that useful Project of the Penny-Post, by the Benefit of which it is propos'd, that a Charitable Society be establish'd: From which Society there shall go every Day Circular Letters to all Parts within the Bills of Mortality, to tell People of their Faults in a friendly and private Manner, whereby you may know what the World thinks of 'em, before it is declar'd to the World that they are thus faulty. This Method cannot fail of universal good Consequences: For it is further added, that they who will not be reform'd by it, must be contented to see the several Letters printed, which were not regarded by 'em, that when they will not take private Reprehension, they may be try'd further by a publick one. I am very sorry I am oblig'd to print the following Epistles of that Kind to some Persons, and the more, because they are of the Fair Sex. This went on *Friday* last to a very fine Lady.

MADAM,

'I Am highly sensible, that there is Nothing of so tender a Nature as the Reputation and 'Conduct of Ladies; and that when there is the 'least Stain got into their Fame, it is hardly ever to 'be wash'd out. When I have said this, you will 'believe I am extremely concern'd, to hear at every

Visit

'Visit I make, that your Manner of Wearing your 'Hair is a meer Affectation of Beauty; as well as, 'that your Neglect of Powder has been a common 'Evil to your Sex. It is to you an Advantage to 'shew that Abundance of fine Tresses: But I be-'seech you to consider, that the Force of your 'Beauty, and the Imitation of you, costs *Eleonora* 'great Sums of Money to her Tire-Woman for 'false Locks, besides what is allowed to her Maid 'for keeping the Secret that she is grey. I must 'take Leave to add to this Admonition, that you 'are not to reign above Four Months and odd 'Days longer. Therefore I must desire you to raise 'and frizz your Hair a little, for it is downright 'Insolence to be thus handsome without Art; and 'you'll forgive me for intreating you to do now 'out of Compassion, what you must soon do out 'of Necessity. I am,

Madam,

Your most Obedient, and most Humble Servant.

This Person dresses just as she did before I writ: As does also the Lady to whom I address'd the following Billet the same Day:

MADAM,

'LET me beg of you to take off the Patches at the lower End of your Left Cheek, and I 'will allow two more under your Left Eye, which 'will contribute more to the Simmetry of your 'Face; except you would please to remove the Ten 'Black Atoms on your Ladyship's Chin, and wear 'one large Patch instead of 'em. If so, you may 'properly enough retain the Three Patches above-'mentioned. I am, *&c.*

This, I thought, had all the Civility and Reason in the World in it; but whether my Letters are intercepted, or whatever it is, the Lady patches as she us'd to do. It is to be observ'd by all the charitable Society, as an Instruction in their Epistles, that they tell People of nothing but what is in their Power to mend. I shall give another Instance of this Way of Writing: Two Sisters in *Essex-street* are eternally gaping out of the Window, as if they knew not the Value of Time, or would call in Companions. Upon which I writ the following Line:

Dear Creatures,

On the Receipt of this, shut your Casements.

But I went by yesterday, and found 'em still at the Window. What can a Man do in this Case? but go on, and wrap himself up in his own Integrity, with Satisfaction only in this melancholy Truth, that Virtue is its own Reward; and that if no one is the better for his Admonitions, yet he is himself the more virtuous in that he gave those Advices.

St James's Coffee-house, September 12.

Letters of the 13th Instant from the Duke of *Marlborough*'s Camp at *Havre* advise, That the necessary Dispositions were made for opening the Trenches before *Mons*. The Direction of the Siege is to be committed to the Prince of *Orange*, who design'd to take his Post accordingly with 30 Battalions and 30 Squadrons on the Day following. On the 17th Lieutenant General *Cadogan* set out for *Brussels*, to hasten the Ammunition and Artillery which is to be employ'd in this Enterprize; and the Confederate Army was extended from the *Haisne* to the *Trouille*, in order to cover the Siege. The Loss of the Confederates in the late Battle is not exactly known; but it appears by a List transmitted to the States-General, that the Number of the Kill'd and Wounded in their Service amounts to above Eight Thousand. It is computed, that the *English* have lost 1500 Men, and the rest of the Allies about Five Thousand, including the Wounded. The States General have taken the most speedy and effectual Measures for reinforcing their Troops; and 'tis expected, that in 8 or 10 Days the Army wil be as numerous as before the Battle. The Affairs in *Italy* afford us nothing remarkable; but 'tis hop'd, that the Difference between the Courts of *Vienna* and *Turin* will be speedily accommodated. Letters from *Poland* present us with a near Prospect of seeing King *Augustus* re-establish'd on the Throne, all Parties being very industrious to reconcile themselves to his Interests.

Will's Coffee-house, September 12.

Of all the pretty Arts in which our Modern Writers excel, there is not any which is more to be recommended to the Imitation of Beginners, than the Skill of Transition from one Subject to another. I know not whether I make my self well understood; but it is certain, that the Way of bringing a Discourse, us'd in the *Mercury Gallant*, the *Gentleman's Journal*, and other learned Writings, not to mention how naturally Things present themselves to such as harangue in Pulpits, and other Occasions which occur to the Learned, are Methods worthy Commendation. I shall attempt this Style my self in a few Lines. Suppose I were discoursing upon the King of *Sweden*'s passing the *Boristhenes*. The *Boristhenes* is a great River, and puts me in Mind of the *Danube* and the *Rhine*. The *Danube* I cannot think of without reflecting on that unhappy Prince who had such fair Territories on the Banks of it; I mean the Duke of *Bavaria*, who by our last Letters is retir'd from *Mons*. *Mons* is as strong a Fortification as any which has no Citadel: And Places which are not compleatly fortified, are, methinks, Lessons to Princes, that they are not Omnipotent, but liable to the Strokes of Fortune. But as all Princes are subject to such Calamities, it is the Part of Men of Letters to guard 'em from the Observations of all small Writers: For which Reason I shall conclude my present Remarks, by publishing the following Advertisement, to be taken Notice of by all who dwell in the Suburbs of Learning.

Whereas the King of Sweden *has been so unfortunate to receive a Wound in his Heel; we do hereby prohibit all Epigrammatists in either Language, and both Universities, as well as all other Poets, of what Denomination soever, to make any Mention of* Achilles *having receiv'd his Death's Wound in the same Part.*

We do likewise forbid all Comparisons in Coffee-houses between Alexander the Great *and the said King of* Sweden, *and from making any Parallels between the Death of* Patkul *and* Philotas; *we being very apprehensive of the Reflections that several Politicians have ready by them to produce on this Occasion, and being willing, as much as in us lies, to free the Town from all Impertinencies of this Nature.*

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